

Evening Telegraph

A DAILY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER.

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To Correspondents.

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To Advertising.

Given to the great interest in the operations of THE PHILADELPHIA TELEGRAPH, compelling us to do so press at an early hour, we earnestly request that advertisements may be sent in as early as possible, and in a position, to secure them an insertion in all of our editions.

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1864.

THE LIQUOR LICENSE LAW.

All sumptuary laws are philosophically wrong. They violate the most approved principles of political economy, as well as the best confirmed theories of human nature. The history of legislation shows that it is entirely vain in practice, and therefore absurd, for those who make the laws of a State to dictate what we shall eat, what we shall drink, and wherewithal we shall be clothed. The natural sense of private independence rebels against such edicts.

They offend, without improving those whom they are intended to benefit. Restraint is a necessary condition of society. Every citizen of common intelligence understands and admits the propriety of giving up a part of the absolute liberty that belongs to him in a savage state, in order to secure all the superior advantages that accrue to him from civil government as a member of a civilized community.

But when laws pass beyond the requirements of public order and safety to entrench on personal liberty, they not only excite a spirit of resistance, but they are rarely, if ever enforced, for the simple reason that they cannot be executed. A notable instance of this truth is the Maine Liquor Law, which has been but imperfectly carried into effect in that State, and has proved a signal failure in every other commonwealth in which an effort has been made to introduce and apply it.

But while legislatures may not prescribe what our food and clothing and dwellings shall be, they may impose certain indirect regulations which do not encroach sensibly on private discretion, while they really protect individuals against serious injury and abuse.

An illustration of this kind of legislation is our State liquor license law. That law does not prohibit any citizen from drinking any kind of intoxicating liquor that he may crave. It does not require him to indulge that taste in his home alone, but allows him to drink in public as well as in private.

But it does provide that no man shall retail intoxicating beverages of any kind, unless he has a license from the State to engage in that business. This law is eminently wise and beneficial, for more reasons than one. Its first object is to secure the people against an unnecessary number of liquor merchants in the shape of low groggeries, which are the fruitful hotbeds of vice, misery, and deformity.

Its second object is to protect the people against a quality of liquor that is really not fit for any being with a human stomach to imbibe.

It proceeds on the assumption that any man who cannot afford to pay a license for the trade is not able to sell liquors of the right kind.

In other words, the law, if strictly enforced, would crush out effectually all small and low back street rascals, where liquid poison is dispensed at three cents a glass.

The third and last purpose of the law is to make a most profitable business pay a revenue to the State treasury. All of the objects recited are eminently judicious and commendable, and ought to be realized consummately, if possible.

But that result, however desirable, cannot be accomplished, unless those municipal officers who are charged with the duty of seeing the statute enforced do their duty faithfully and diligently, without fear or favor.

We are glad that our previous remarks on this subject have had the effect of stimulating our ward constables to increased activity in arresting and bringing to due account before the Quarter Sessions all persons who are engaged in violating the State law by selling liquor without a license. We hope they will not relax their efforts in the performance of so important a public duty, and we shall carefully watch their course in the future.

LUXURY IN MOURNING.

Among the moderns, mourning has reached so great perfection that it is classified into deep mourning, mourning, light mourning or half mourning, and the last effects of grief linger and fade away in purple tints. The art has even reached the point where inanimate objects share in the general display. Long and broad streamers of black float for months from the many-windowed mansion, and bell-pulls are draped in agonies of crape. A lady can dress so as to be perfectly inconsolable, she can fit herself out with the most moderately afflicted dress conceivable with grieving at all. Dependent upon ten degrees of consanguinity which she held to the deceased, she can introduce a shade of melancholy into her costume, or push it to the verge of despair.

We can all smile at the lachrymatories of the ancients, and feel very sure that many a one without a tear was deposited in the sepulchre; but we do not seem to find anything strange in modern civilization which measures affliction by the yard, and assumes it in ultra-feminine clothes. Perhaps we shall soon hear of the latest thing out in the way of "touching articles of woe," or "the sweetest thing for a great bereavement" or "inconsolable dress bonnets."

The wearing of mourning should be prompted only by two motives. The first derived from the state of mind of the mourner, who does not wish to be seen in the extreme of the world, because for a time the heart is not with the world. The second motive should be that of apprising the world of a loss experienced, and thus placing a barrier to painful occurrences. The idea of respect to the dead associated with the wearing of mourning emanates from perception of motives.

There are two Kearsarge Mountains in New Hampshire. Kearsarge Mountain proper is the highest mountain in Hillsborough county, in the towns of Sutton and Salbury. Fugawak Mountain, the prominent elevation in the Saco Valley, near North Conway, has also been called Kearsarge during the past seventy years; but that name rightly belongs to the eminence in the Valley of the Merrimac.

Three young women were drowned in Chautauque lake on Tuesday, the 16th instant. A party of three young men, named Biseyek, Walman, and Bell, three sisters, had been in a rowboat in a rowboat, and an approaching Fair Point the boat, which was leaking as well as overladen, filled and sunk. Miss Es-tel Wallace and the Misses Helen and Emma Babcock were drowned.

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—It is even sought to introduce new fashions into the house of death. It is not improper to modify the shape of the coffin, but why, when modified, call it a burial casket? To distinguish the death of a child from that of a grown person, it was formerly the custom to use a small piece of white ribbon on the black crape fastened to the bell-pull. Now-a-days an innovation is appearing in the form of white crape tied with white galloon, or else a broad white ribbon alone. There is nothing objectionable in the thing itself; but it is objectionable that fashion should encroach here, and that even death should not be accorded its empire. The change is unnecessary; yet we dare say that it may be defended by the plea that it is "very becoming."

There is too much indulgence in morbid sentimentality regarding the dead. Death is a mystery whose awful solemnity cannot be disguised by any accessories of the funeral. Fashion should stand appalled, by the spectacle of inert worthlessness. It is well to use symbols recognized as designating a certain event, or difference. In that event, but there must be conformity between the appearance and the literal significance of an act, or else the effect is monstrous.

Mankind delights in monuments and epitaphs; and it may even be considered as evidence of a good trait in human nature that the splendid marble and its inscription do not always tell the truth. But what shall we say of tokens of love and respect which consist in the adornment of the person—of grief which is the work of mania-makers and milady's? We must let fashion hold undisputed sway in life, force her to pause at the grave. Let us keep to the old, plain, and sufficient forms. Let us reserve our white ribbons for weddings and our caskets for jewels.

HOTEL.—On the 20th instant SAMUEL M. HUGHES, in the 54th year of his age, died.

—Friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of Mrs. Mary E. Cunningham, 101 Main street, on Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

BENNETT.—On the 21st inst., LYDIA ANN BENNETT, in the 56th year of her age, died.

—The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his son-in-law, William R. Heiveron, 302 Market street, and his son, ALBERT TANKEERT, of State Harbor, Lancaster county, to Miss ANNIE E. HOPTON, of Chester county, Pa.

—At 10 o'clock.

—The 22d instant, SAMUEL M. HUGHES, in the 54th year of his age.

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